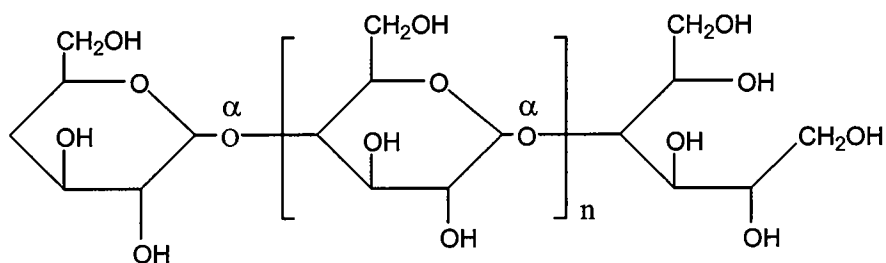


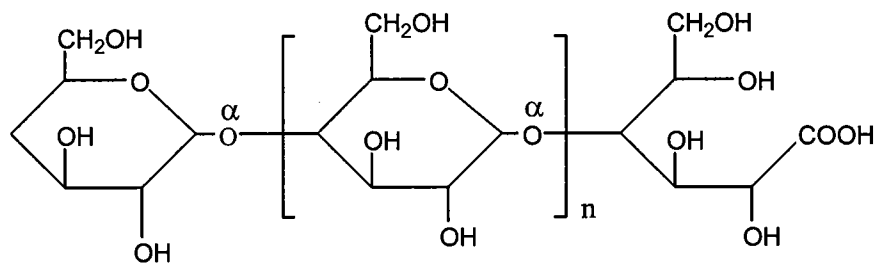
**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

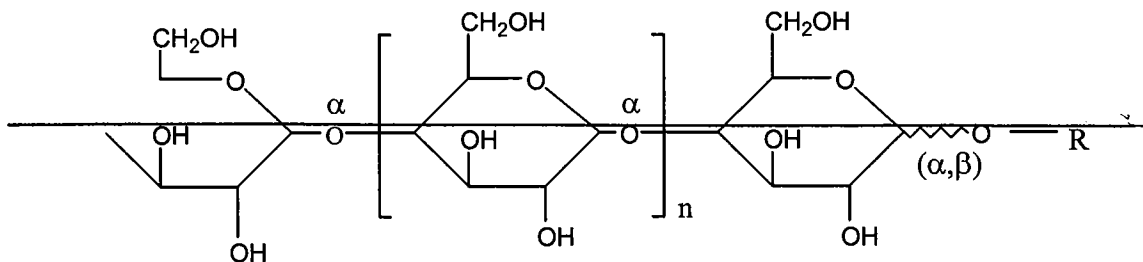
Claim 1 (currently amended): A sterilized peritoneal dialysis solution comprising:  
 a starch comprising a glucose polymer selected from the group consisting of D-glucitol  
 having the formula:

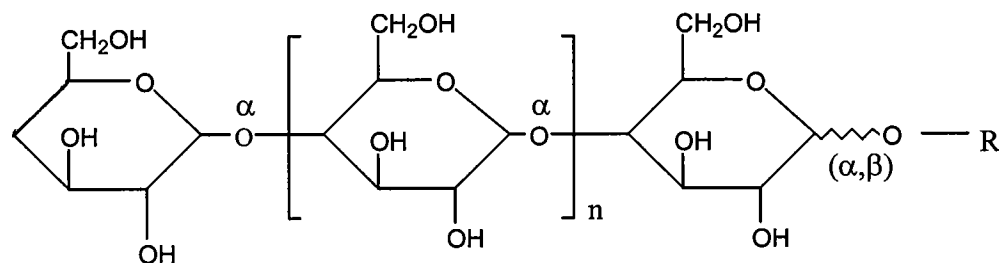


and gluconic acid having the formula



and alkylglycoside having the formula





wherein R is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_2\text{CH}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2$ , and  $[\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})]\text{CH}$ , and wherein the polymer is linked by  $\alpha$ -1,4 bonds, that comprise at least 85%, by number, of the linkages.

Claim 2 (original): The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the solution is substantially free of formaldehyde.

Claim 3 (original): The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the solution is substantially free of furfurals.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the partially hydrolyzed starch is substantially free of terminal aldehyde groups.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of administering an autoclavable osmotic agent to a subject in need thereof comprising the steps of:

preparing the osmotic agent by the step comprising: providing a solution of starch dissolved in water;

adding  $\text{NaBH}_4$  to the starch solution to reduce the starch; and

administering a resultant osmotic agent to the subject.

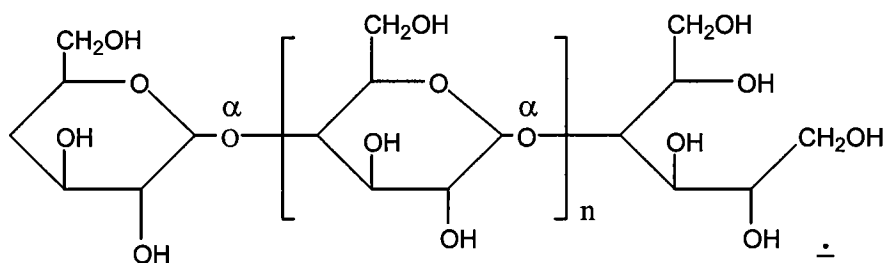
Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of purifying the reduced starch solution by passing the reduced starch solution through an anionic exchange resin.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the dissolving and adding steps are carried out at room temperature.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6 further comprising the following step after the adding step and prior to the purifying step:  
allowing the solution to stand for about 10 hours.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 wherein the starch is reduced to an icodextrin linked predominately by  $\alpha$ -1,4 bonds and having the formula:



Claim 11 (previously presented): A method of administering a sterilizable osmotic agent to a subject in need thereof comprising the steps of:

preparing an osmotic agent by providing a solution of starch dissolved in water, providing a solution of starch dissolved in water, providing a solution of NaOCl, adding the NaOCl solution to the starch solution to oxidize the starch; and  
administering the resultant osmotic agent to the subject.

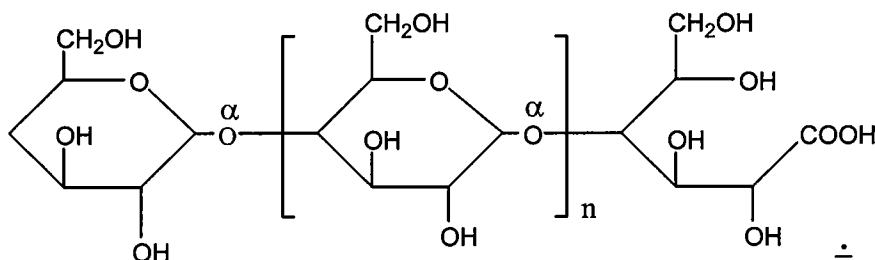
Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of  
purifying the oxidized starch solution by passing the oxidized starch solution through a gel permeation chromatograph.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the adding step is carried out at room temperature.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 12 further comprising the following step after the adding step and prior to the purifying step:  
allowing the solution to stand for about 2 hours.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein the starch is oxidized to an icodextrin linked predominately by  $\alpha$ -1,4 bonds and having the formula:



Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of administering a sterilizable osmotic agent to a subject in need of same comprising the steps of:

dissolving starch in an acid and an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, butanol and glycerol as part of a process of preparing the sterilizable osmotic agent;  
and

administering the sterilizable osmotic agent to the subject.

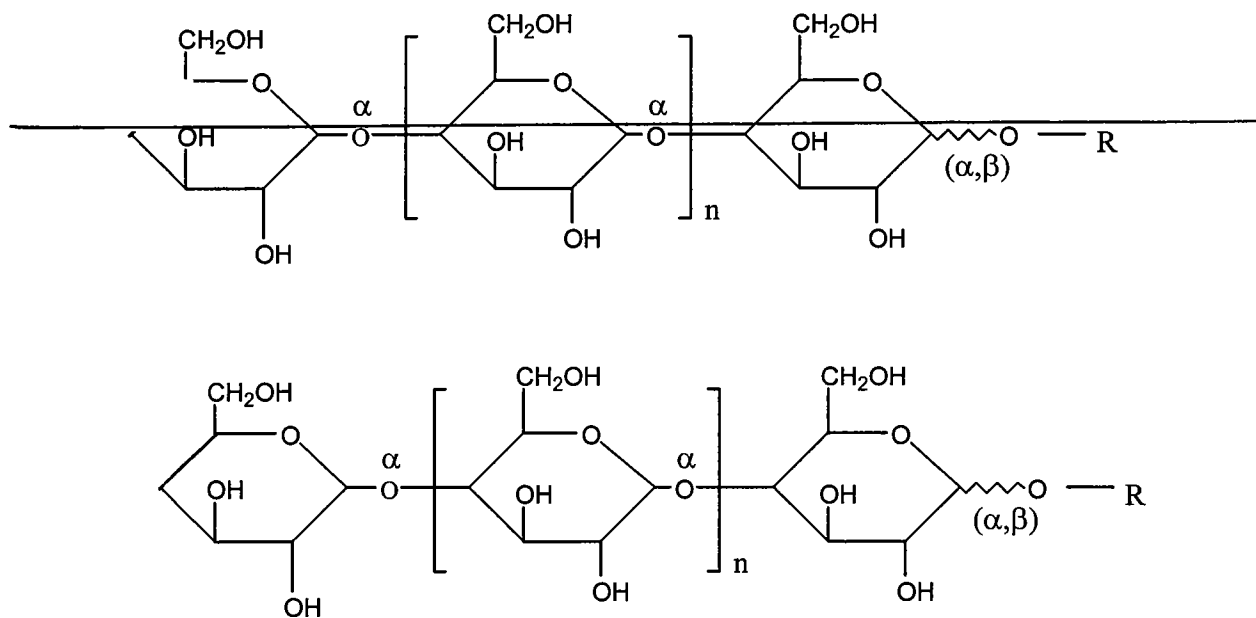
Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of stirring the starch, alcohol and acid for about 2 hours.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the stirring step is carried out at a temperature of about 100°C.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the acid is HCl.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 17 wherein the starch is glycosylated to an icodextrin linked predominately by  $\alpha$ -1,4 bonds and having the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_2\text{CH}$ .